

There was no objection.

# **SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE JESSE L. JACKSON, JR., OF ILLI- NOIS AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE**

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from the State of Illinois, Mr. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., be permitted to take the oath of office today. His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Members of the Illinois delegation please escort the member-elect to the rostrum.

Mr. YATES. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the Illinois delegation, it is my honor, my very high honor and high privilege, to present to the Speaker and to the House of Representatives a newly elected Congressman from the State of Illinois. He has taken the seat that was previously held by Mr. Mel Reynolds.

The gentleman is eminently qualified to enter upon this position, Mr. Speaker. He holds a degree as a Baptist minister. He holds a degree as a practicing lawyer. He holds a degree as a Master of Business Administration. He has spoken the length and breadth of the country in public addresses. He has engaged in all kinds of political activities, which is to be expected when one realizes the family which is his.

I know that the people of Chicago, the people of his district, are very proud to have him as their new Member of Congress from the city, and it is with that that I present him to you for swearing in, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER. Let me say to my friend from Illinois that I know the father well and look forward very much to getting to know the son. We are delighted, I think all of us, to have you here.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God?

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the Congress of the United States.

## **I TOO HAVE A DREAM**

(Mr. JACKSON of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker and distinguished Members of the

House, I am honored to be a servant of this body.

I want to thank God, who has called our family to public service and blessed me with the ability and the will to serve. It is faith in God and the strength of my family that made this exalted position of service possible. The Rainbow Coalition gave me the opportunity to serve and grow. We must expand the Rainbow Spirit across the land. We must let a new generation arise. I want to thank and acknowledge my family—my wife Sandi, my parents, Rev. and Mrs. Jesse Jackson, my sister Santita, my brother Jonathan and his wife Marilyn, Yusef, and little Jackie, Grandma and Grandpa Brown, my grandmother Matilda Burns and Helen Jackson, who could not be present.

My ambition and my focus is clear. I want to do God's will, and I believe it to be His will that we lift the lot of suffering humanity. Where there are walls that divide, we must build bridges and bring peace to a war torn world, whether Bosnia or Nigeria.

I want to honor the citizens of the Second Congressional District of Illinois who entrusted me to represent them, to make the best case possible to improve the quality of life for all of them. For those who voted for me, and those who did not, for those who were too young to vote, and for those who've given up on the vote, because they no longer dream or believe, that change will come.

I promised the seniors of my district that I would fight to save their Medicare, and the youth of my district to save their scholarships. I promised to fight for affordable housing, to uplift the conditions of people in Altgeld Gardens, Ginger Ridge, Ford Heights, and the many communities across my district, where living conditions have not changed in two generations. They are not lazy, or welfare kings or queens, they want to work, but they need the opportunity to work.

Last, I want to be a public servant who is mostly known as a freedom fighter of character in the best tradition of Jesus The Christ, Martin Luther King, Jr., Nelson Mandela and my dad, Jesse Jackson, Sr. Our character is measured by how we treat the least of these. I will fight with all of my might for a public policy that will wipe out malnutrition and save the malnourished. A public policy of full employment, healthcare, housing, and an education safety net for all of the American people. I want to defend the defenseless. I want them to dream again and stop recycling nightmares. We must choose schools instead of jails for our future. Let the children dream. Let the seniors dream again. Let them hope. Let them believe. Revive their spirits. Let all of us hope.

I look forward to learning from you and to working with you. Together, we must make the American Dream possible for all of America's people. Thank you.

[The following portion was delivered in both English and Spanish.]

Mr. Speaker, in the time I have left, I would like to say that I share a dream, and I called it "I Too Have a Dream."

That the southside will look like the northside.

That Rainbow Beach will look like North Avenue Beach.

That the Dusable Museum will be funded like the Field Museum.

That southside and suburban children will receive funding like the northside for parks, zoos, restaurants and piers with ferris wheels.

That equal funding for education will be a reality in this generation.

That more county money will be used for preschool and afternoon school programs than incarceration programs.

It is my hope that I can look forward to working with Members of Congress, and working with each and every one of you. Together, we must make the American dream possible for all of Americans, for America's people.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

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## **DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS WELCOMES JESSE JACKSON, JR.**

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning on behalf of the entire Democratic Caucus to welcome the newest Member of the United States House of Representatives, JESSE JACKSON, Jr., our colleague from the Second Congressional District of Illinois. At 30 years old, Mr. JACKSON will be one of the youngest Members of the 104th Congress. But what he lacks in age, he more than makes up in commitment to justice and opportunity for the people of Illinois, Chicago, and all Americans.

As field director for the National Rainbow Coalition, he has been on the front lines to fight for economic opportunity in America's cities and basic equality and justice everywhere. When he ran for Congress this year, he pledged to dedicate himself to the kind of issues that are at the heart of the Democratic Party and America. Protecting Medicare and Medicaid, raising the minimum wage, creating jobs, and fighting to heal the divisions that too often exist among races and between genders in our country.

I am proud to serve with JESSE JACKSON, Jr., and I know that he will do remarkable things for the people of his district, bringing all of the energy, enthusiasm, and dedication to bear on the problems we face.

So I say to the gentleman from Illinois, welcome to the people's House, and we all look forward to working with you as we together do the people's business.